DMRC service to surrounding cities and towns

*93. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas presently connected by Metro Railway in Delhi and the areas proposed to be connected in the next two years; and

(b) the list of major cities and towns bordering Delhi which are presently served or proposed to be served by DMRC and the time schedule for implementing these projects with revenue implications?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Shahdara-Tis Hazari section of Delhi Metro Rail Project has been commissioned so far. This section connects Shahdara to Tis Hazari Via Welcome Colony, Seelampur, Shastri Park and Kashmere Gate.

In the next two years, by March, 2005:-

(i) Shahdara-Tis Hazari section will be extended further providing connection to Pratap Nagar, Vivekanandpuri, Trinagar, Kanhaiya Nagar, Keshav Puram, Wazirpur, Kohat Enclave, Pitampura, Rohini, Rithala, Daulatpur, Pehladpur and Barwala, and

(ii) Vishwa vidyalaya will get connected to Kashmere Gate via Vidhan Sabha and Civil Lines.

(b) Nil. Delhi Mass Rapid Transit System Phase-I project does not envisage conncetion to any city or town bordering Delhi at present.

Patenting of Vastu, Vedas etc. by Germany

†*94. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Vastu, Vedas, Ayurveda and Gayatri Mantras have been patented in Germany;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether some other Indian items are also being patented in some other countries in the similar way;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) the action taken by Government for its annulment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) The reported patenting of Vastu, Vedas, Ayurveda and Gayatri Mantras in Germany is factually not correct. Further, Vastu, Vedas, Ayurveda and Gayatri Mantras are *Prima-facie* not patentable under patent laws. Patents are only granted to a process or a product which meets the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. The issue needs to be distinguished from the usage of such words for trade promotion for which trade marks registration is sought/obtained under appropriate laws by commercial and other organisations. Such usage is not expressly inadmissible under the trademarks laws of various countries, including India.

Intellectual property rights, including patents, are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective laws and have territorial effect only, that is they are effective only in the country of grant.

As and when information is received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patent can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned.

Earlier a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric in wound healing was successfully challenged and was also cancelled by the Patent Office of the country concerned. Similarly, a patent on the fungicidal property of neem, granted in Europe, was successfully challenged. The claims of the patent on Basmati Ricelines and grains granted in the United States of America which had the potential of affecting India's commercial interest were also challenged. The said claims were subsequently cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the title of the patent was also amended.

Intellectual property rights, including patents, are essentially private rights and are normally challenged by the person(s) whose interests are affected/jeopardised.